

To the Members of the California Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 978 without my signature.

This bill requires the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to classify the John Marsh Home and the surrounding property as a unit of the state park system. Mandating this action would have immediate one time and ongoing costs to the General Fund.

California's state park system is a true crown jewel. All Californians benefit from this comprehensive network of parks reaching from the coastline to the desert, the Sierras to the Sea. However, we must prioritize how we use our fiscal resources to protect and enhance our environmental and cultural assets.

The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is already in the process of formally reviewing the classification of the John Marsh Home and its eligibility as a possible addition to the state park system, therefore this bill is unnecessary and redundant. DPR's current evaluation of this property already confirms that the John Marsh Home has sufficient historical significance to warrant its consideration as a new unit of the State Parks system. Requiring DPR to do something it is already doing is unnecessary and could result in significant expenses if implemented as written. Continuing the ongoing administrative process already initiated by DPR will provide the necessary flexibility to address the conversion costs responsibly.

For these reasons I am unable to sign this measure.

Sincerely,

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
GOVERNOR